



## Getting holiday season ready

See page 18



## Conference kicks off

See page 5

## INDEX

Events	• Page 3
Viewpoint	• Page 5
Chaplain	• Page 6
Sports	• Page 13

# The Signal



Friday, Dec. 5, 2008

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## News UPDATE

### Change of command ceremony

The 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) will host a change of command ceremony 10 a.m. **today** on Barton Field.

Lt. Col. Carlos Morales will relinquish command of the 63rd Sig. Bn. (E), 35th Signal Brigade to Lt. Col. Robert Edmonson.

For information call Capt. Jason Cody at (706) 831-2944.

### Christmas tree lighting

Fort Gordon will light the Christmas Tree in Freedom Park at 6 p.m. **today**.

There will be refreshments, band music and an appearance by Santa Claus. For information call (706) 791-3880.

### Army-Navy Football game

The Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation will host the 109th Army-Navy Football Game **Dec. 6** at the Courtyard.

The post-wide football game begins at 9 a.m. Tailgating activities begin at 11 a.m.

There is a \$10 charge at the Courtyard. For additional information call (706) 791-6779.

### Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performs

The 35th Signal Brigade will sponsor a performance of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps at 2 p.m. **Dec. 18** at the Signal Theater.

The performance is open to everyone in the Fort Gordon community.

For information call (706) 791-9307/9308.

### Identification Card office temporarily closes

The Fort Gordon ID card and DEERS office in Darling Hall will be closed **Dec. 15-17** for a system upgrade to RAPIDS 7.3.

After the upgrade, all personnel will require two valid forms of identification before being issued a new identification card.

Normal business hours will resume on 7:30 a.m. Dec. 18. Only emergencies will be processed/accepted during the closure.

For more information, call (706) 791-1927 or (706) 791-1930.

## Christmas House opens hearts

Charmain Z. Brackett  
Correspondent

Fort Gordon carried on an annual tradition on Nov. 24 as Christmas House opened with a visit from Santa Claus and festive holiday tunes. "Over the last 10 years, it's averaged 300 Families with 700 to 900 children. It's truly a great program," said Col. John Holwick, garrison commander.

The program started in 1966 with a group of nurses giving teddy bears to children at the holidays. In the 1980s, the program came under the Army Community Service umbrella.

"Planning for the year's annual program starts in the humid days of August," he said.

Volunteers buy toys and ready the Christmas House prior to the distribution days of Dec. 9 and 10.

The open-house celebration featured a parade of checks from organizations on and off-post in support of the effort. Groups raise money for Christmas House through bake sales, car washes and other events.

"It takes more than a village; it takes an entire installation, and we are truly appreciative," said Lynn Harshman, with Army Community Service.

Col. Jack Bryant, Fort Gordon's chief of staff, directed Christmas House volunteers in Christmas songs, and children from Fort Gordon's child development center sang as well.



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Fort Gordon preschoolers join the fun and lift spirits by singing during the Christmas House opening ceremony Nov. 24.

## 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) uncases colors

Capt. Stephen Joosten  
35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and supporters of the 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) braved a chilly breeze blowing across Barton Field early Dec. 1 to ceremonially mark the unit's return from Iraq.

The "Proud, and Ready" Soldiers of the 63rd held a ceremony to uncase the unit's colors.

The 63rd Sig. Bn. (E) deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 17 months ago to provide strategic communications support and

joint communications to command posts and forward operating bases. The battalion provided communications support simultaneously across three divisional battle spaces which spanned 28 separate battle positions.

Led by Lt. Col. Carlos Morales, 63rd Sig. Bn. commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Stanley, 63rd Sig. Bn. command sergeant major the Soldiers of the 63rd Sig. Bn. (E) recently returned from deployment.

"The Soldiers serving during this period in the campaign for a secure, stable, and prosperous Iraq have sacrificed much; and

together have achieved remarkable gains," said Col. John Baker, 35th Signal Brigade commander during the ceremony.

"Today, the Iraqi people enjoy greater freedoms than at any point in several generations, and there is tremendous hope for the future. Soldiers of the 63rd Signal Battalion we thank you for your magnificent contributions," said Baker.

He concluded his address to the troops with a round of applause for the Soldiers and their Families for what he characterized as their astonishing service.

Morales also ad-

ressed his troops. "A bit more than two months ago we cased the battalion colors and started our return back to Fort Gordon, in order to reunite with Families, friends, and loved ones. Fully knowing that this was a 15 month deployment, the Families, Fort Gordon, and the Augusta community all stood alongside these Soldiers during this time of hardship."

Morales said, "The leaders of this unit are extremely

proud of their Soldiers, the Families and are also extremely proud of the battalion's heritage in serving our country.

Leaders of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion uncased their colors for the first time since leaving theater. Following the colors ceremony, the unit proudly sang the Signal and Army songs before leaving Barton Field.



Photos by Spc. Johnathan Kolkmeier

(Above) Lt. Col Carlos Morales, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Stanley, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) command sergeant major uncase the battalion colors on Barton Field Dec. 1 after returning from a 15 month deployment to Iraq. (Right) The newly unsheathed banner flaps in the early morning breeze with other unit flags after the color guards post the colors after uncasing the battalion flag.

## Fort Gordon hosts Signal Conference



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, introduces a video teleconference address from Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander III Armored Corps and Fort Hood, Texas at the official kickoff of the 2008 Signal Conference in Alexander Hall at Fort Gordon Dec. 3 The conference is running through today.

More coverage inside, See Page 5





# Fisher House gets facelift

By **Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Correspondent*

Plans look like they are on schedule for updates to the décor at Fort Gordon’s Fisher House.

Haimanot Abbit, an interior designer in the Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command in Alexandria, Va., met with house manager Francisco Cruz Jr., Col. Yvonne Tucker-Harris, Dwight David Eisenhower

Army Medical Center’s Chief of the Department of Social Work, and a few Families staying at Fisher House on Nov. 24 to discuss color palettes and fabric swatches.

“She had a whole suitcase full of patterns,” said Cruz.

Built in 1993, the Fisher House hasn’t been updated since its construction. It has a look that was trendy for its original construction.

The Fisher House is scheduled to get new paint, carpet,

window treatments and wall coverings.

Bold patterns and bright stripes in some of the common areas will receive more subdued hues of beiges and creams. With the colors selected, Cruz said the work will have to be put out for bid. Not only will there be painters and wallpaper hangers working on the house, but there’s a lot of prep work that needs to be completed as well.

The common areas, as well as the individual rooms, will be updated.

Cruz said he doesn’t know the time frame the house will have to be closed for the renovations. He had originally hoped for February or March, and he said he continues to hope for that. Volunteers will decorate the Fisher House for the season on Sunday. A team will add garland and a tree to the interior while the exterior will receive lights.

## Around Town

# Holiday season opens with lots to do

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Correspondent*

Ring in the holidays with numerous Christmas events in the area this weekend.

Downtown Augusta features events today and Saturday.

The first Friday celebration from 5 to 10 p.m. today will have a holiday twist with strolling carolers, the lighting of the Fifth and 13th Street bridges and a merchant window decorating contest.

There will be many musicians playing on Broad Street and shops open for holiday purchasing.

Saturday is another busy day downtown with the Miss Augusta Christmas Parade at 2 p.m., and activities at the Augusta Common beginning at 3:30 p.m. There will be an ice skating rink, Santa Claus, the Polar Express, children’s games and live entertainment.

The highlight of the evening will be at 6:20 p.m. when Augusta Mayor Deke Copenhaver lights the city’s tree.

Columbia County will also boast a Christmas celebration on Saturday with the Christmas in America celebration from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Columbia County Amphitheater.

There will be photos with Santa Claus, arts and crafts ven-

dors, live music and the lighting of the county’s Christmas tree.

Take a glimpse into Christmases of the past at the area’s house museums.

Actors in period costumes will show how Christmases were celebrated in centuries past at five area house museums during the Historic Holiday Candlelight Tour today and Saturday.

Museums on the tour include Meadow Garden, built in 1791, home of George Walton, the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Ezekiel Harris House built in 1797, the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson, who lived in Augusta from 1860 to 1870, Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site in Beech Island, S.C. completed in 1859, and the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History.

The candlelight tours will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, and 2 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and children under 5 are admitted free. One ticket is good for both days and all of the house museums. For information, call (706) 724-0436.

# Free tax preparation volunteers needed

**Capt. Peter Meno**  
*Tax Center officer in charge*

The Fort Gordon Tax Center is gearing up for the tax season and is recruiting volunteers.

Last year, Fort Gordon completed 2,700 tax returns with 2,656 of those processed electronically using the IRS’s e-file program.

Soldiers and their Families received an amazing total of \$4,468,716 in refunds.

If things go as they have gone in the past, a record number of filers will utilize the services at Fort Gordon to file their 2008 income taxes.

The Tax Center will provide services to facilitate the filing of service member’s taxes as well as those of their Family members.

Any excellent program requires dedicated and concerned individuals who are willing to lend their talents and time for the betterment of their community.

Fort Gordon tax center managers are seeking volunteers who are willing to help meet some high goals. Whether a novice or an experienced tax expert, your assistance can be valuable on the Fort Gordon Tax Office team for the 2008 tax season.

The Internal Revenue Service will provide a training

session at Fort Gordon from Jan. 20-23, 2009.

IRS agents will provide training to anyone interested in helping the Fort Gordon Tax Center. The IRS training will make participants knowledgeable to help complete tax returns at the tax center. And the training will also give participants a vast amount of

knowledge on income taxes for a better understanding of your own tax responsibilities.

Those who complete the training will be certified as an official tax preparer.

Flexible schedules are available for anyone who wants to volunteer. Plans are in development to have

evening and weekend hours this tax filing season.

For further information about the free tax filing service or to ask questions about volunteering call Capt. Peter Meno at (706) 791-7812.



# Community Events

## Holiday gift wrapping

The Fort Gordon Service Club will once again be hosting holiday gift wrapping in the PX lobby until **Dec. 24** during operating hours. Gift wrapping will be done on a donation basis. Several dates will be available for wrapping for organizations on post that are eligible to do fundraising on Fort Gordon.

For more information contact Joannie Bryant at (706) 863-2931.

## Military vacancies

The 208th Regional Support Group, an Army reserve logistics unit at Fort Jackson, has vacancies in many military occupational specialties in the rank of sergeant to lieutenant colonel.

For more information, call Maj. Glenn Baker at (803) 751-9724 or by e-mail at [glenn.baker@usar.army.mil](mailto:glenn.baker@usar.army.mil).

## FEW Christmas Auction

The Garden City Chapter of Federally Employed Women at Fort Gordon is hosting their annual Christmas Auction **Dec. 9** in the Victoria Room of the Gordon Club. The event kicks off at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a member of FEW to attend. The proceeds from the auction help support Safe Homes of Augusta, Fort Gordon's Christmas House and the Fisher House. The auctioneer will be Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon Theatre director. Bring your supervisor, co-workers, Family members, and friends. Clean out your closets and bring those "white elephants" to auction them off and make some money for these charities.

The luncheon is a pay-as-you-go buffet event at the Gordon Club. If you are unable to attend the event, but still want to donate something for the auction, bring your donations to Jeanne Stewart at the Religious Support Office, Building 29601, on Barnes Avenue on post.

For more information call Jeanne Stewart at (706) 791-8550.

## Financial Education

Financial experts will visit Fort Gordon to offer free advice on investing, credit management and much more. The Finance education forum is

### At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is adults \$4, children \$2, under age 5 free. For information call (706) 791-3982.

**Dec. 5 to Dec. 7**

**Friday - High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G)**

**Saturday - Pride and Glory (R)**

**Sunday - W (PG-13)**

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

being presented by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, which regulates all securities firms in the United States, in partnership with the Leader College for Information Technology and Fort Gordon's Army Community Service. They will present information from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. **Dec. 10** at Alexander Hall, noon to 2 p.m. **Dec. 11** in the break room of the Active Duty Rehabilitation Unit at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center; and from 9 to 11 a.m. and again at 1 to 2:30 p.m. **Dec. 12** in the first floor auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center. The programs are free.

For more information contact Sonya McCaw at (706) 791-2147 or visit the website: [www.SaveAndInvest.org](http://www.SaveAndInvest.org).

## Holiday gift ideas

Looking for some great gifts for the upcoming holidays? Stop by the Thrift Shop which is operated by the Fort Gordon Service Club. It's located in Building 39102, which can be found in the Brems Barracks area at the Avenue of the States and 40th Street (behind the PX). It's open from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday and from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

For more information call (706) 791-2779.

## Army-Navy Game

Watch the 109th Army-Navy Football Game at the Courtyard, **Dec. 6**. The post-wide football game starts at 9 a.m. and tailgating begins at 11 a.m. There is a \$10 charge per ticket.

For more information call (706) 791-6779.

## Newcomers Holiday Cookie Exchange

Share some home baked cookies from 9:45 to 11 a.m. **Dec. 18**. Bring 2.5 dozen cookies and you will return home with 2 dozen beautiful cookies. The cost is \$3.

For more information contact Jeannie Hipsher at (706)210.7547.

## Ride sharing network

**MilitaryRideShare.com** is a way for service members to get home and celebrate with their Families.

Developers of the site encourage travelers to use the service when you go home for Christmas in a few weeks. Remember that the site is for all active duty service members and their dependent Family members. Retired service members can also use the site as well. By doing this, hopefully more connections can be made and folks like you can get the rides you are seeking.

Share the link with all your friends. The more people using the site, the better the odds you will find the ride you need.

Helping Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Soldiers ride home together and save some green is the stated mission of the site.

Check out the website [www.militaryrideshare.com](http://www.militaryrideshare.com) for more information.

## North Augusta Chamber of Commerce activites

The 55th North Augusta Lions Club Christmas Parade is the **Dec. 7** starting at 3 p.m.

The Twenty-First Annual Beta Sigma Phi Christmas Tour of Homes is **Dec. 5-6**. Tickets in advance are \$15, Day of Tour \$18. Deadline for advance ticket sales is 2 p.m. **Dec. 5**.

The North Augusta Chamber's 3rd Annual Christmas Drop-In is **Dec. 9** from 4-6 p.m. Hope to see you here for Christmas Cheer!

The next **A.M.Connection** is 7:15 a.m. **Dec. 10** at the North Augusta Community Center. Sam Bennett is the guest speaker.

Aiken's very own Tuba Christmas will be held 4 p.m. on **Dec. 13**, at the Aiken County Historical Museum. Come join us for a Christmas performance like no other.

For more information call Judy Whaley at (803) 279-2323 or send her e-mail at [judy@northaugustachamber.org](mailto:judy@northaugustachamber.org).

## \$20,000 CID special agents bonus

The Department of Defense recently approved a continuation of a \$20,000 lump sum Critical Skills Accession Bonus for active duty enlisted Soldiers who successfully complete the "311A - CID Special Agent" Warrant Officer Basic Course.

Enlisted CID Special Agents with at least 24 months of CID investigative experience and a minimum of 60 credit-hours of college, and who are no longer on apprentice status, are eligible to receive the bonus.

For more information on CID visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil).



## Benefits selection last day reminder

The last day of the Benefits Open Season for Federal Employee Health Benefits, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance and the FSA Program is Dec. 8. If you are planning to make any elections/changes, it is recommended that you do so as soon as possible.

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian does not administer all benefit programs; each benefit has a different program administrator for making elections/changes and managing the enrollments.

Additional information on all programs is available at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/index.aspx>.

In order to provide the best customer service possible, ABC-C will be staying open until midnight (Central Time) on Dec. 8. Counselors will be available until midnight to assist employees with FEHB questions and transactions.

To make your FEHB election, please visit the ABC-C website at <https://www.abc.army.mil>, or if you prefer to make your FEHB election through the Interactive Voice Response System or speak to a knowledgeable benefits counselor, call toll-free 1-877-276-9287 or TDD at 1-877-276-9833. OCONUS numbers can be found on the ABC-C web site.

To make an election or change to your FEDVIP, visit <https://www.benefeds.com/> or call 1-877-888-FEDS (1-877-888-3337), TTY: 1-877-889-5680.

# Free financial forums planned

**Teresa Sarber**  
*Army Community Service*

A financial planning forum comes to Fort Gordon this week.

Fort Gordon Army Community Service, in partnership with the Leader College of Information Technology and Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, will host the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation Forum on Dec. 10-12.

FINRA is the largest non-governmental regulator for all securities firms doing business with the U.S. public.

In response to a survey showing that investors have fundamental questions and misunderstandings about important investment issues, FINRA established the non-profit Investor Education Foundation in December 2003.

The Foundation's mission is to provide investors with high-quality, easily accessible information and tools to better understand the markets and

the basic principles of saving and investing. Financial experts from the Foundation are concerned only with providing education. They are not affiliated with any insurance or investment companies, they do not sell investment products, promote products or firms, or offer specific investment advice. A memorandum of agreement

between the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the Department of Defense attests to the Foundation's commitment to include members of the military community in their goal to educate the public about financial management. They have launched an intensive financial awareness and education campaign which will pro-

vide service members and their Families a better understanding of saving and investing.

Financial education forums and the online resource, [SaveandInvest.org](http://SaveandInvest.org), are part of that campaign.

Call (706) 791-8524/1918 for more information. You do not need to pre-register to attend.

### Finance forum schedule

<u>Dec. 10</u> 8:55 -10:30 a.m.	Alexander Hall Smart Money, Credit, and Investing Management (Refreshments available at 8:30 a.m.)
1:25 a.m.-3 p.m.	Smart Saving for Retirement (TSP, Mutual Funds and more) (Refreshments available at 1 p.m.)
<u>Dec. 11</u> Noon - 2:30 p.m.	Charlie Norwood Veterans Medical Center Attendees limited to active duty military patients, Families, and staff (Lunch provided)
<u>Dec. 12</u>	DDEAMC Auditorium Sessions are scheduled to begin at 9:25 a.m. and at 12:55 p.m. Topics are the same as those presented on Dec. 10 in Alexander Hall.

## World Aids Day observance encourages personal responsibility

**Robbiesteene Trent**  
*Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center*

World AIDS day was observed across Fort Gordon Dec. 1. The World Health Organization began observing this day in 1988. According to the World Health Organization it's a day whereby governments, National Aids Programs, faith organizations, community organizations and individuals are presented with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic.

In 2007, the estimated number of people living with HIV worldwide was 33.2 million and there were 2.7 million newly diagnosed cases of HIV. The number of AIDS death for that same year was 2.0 million.

In the United States an estimated 1 million persons are living with HIV; of these approximately 25 percent are unaware of their HIV infection and are at risk of infecting others. Although the number of people living with HIV has stabilized, the numbers are steadily increasing due to the number of new infections. HIV

was first identified in 1981, when certain members of the population started getting sick with a rare form of cancer. Human Immunodeficiency Virus is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The HIV virus attacks the Immune System. The Immune System protects the body from bacteria, viruses, parasites and some cancers.

So, why a celebration of HIV/AIDS? The activities planned here at Fort Gordon and throughout the Community are designed to increase awareness of the HIV/AIDS global epidemic, educate the community on the infection and transmission of HIV, and empower individuals to take "personal responsibility" for one's behavior. Army Public Health Nursing's "Lunch and Learn" entitled "HIV in the Workplace," was presented by Maj. Kepler Davis, Infectious Disease physician at DDEAMC.

The presentation took place in DDEAMC Auditorium located on the first floor of the hospital, on Dec. 1. A local group, the Women of *St. Stephens' Ministry* displayed a few of the quilts

from a local collection entitled "A Stitch at a Time". This group was founded in 2006, by Carolyn Yancey, to promote the HIV awareness message through the use of these beautiful lap quilts.

The single most important thing you can do to prevent the spread of HIV in the U.S. and worldwide is to get tested. Knowing your HIV status offers many benefits such as beginning life saving treatment as soon as possible, protecting their partners and protecting the community. It is important for every individual to know their HIV status and take the proper precautions to aid in stopping the infection and transmission of HIV to others.

What can you do? Take personal responsibility for yourself; know your status and take the proper precautions to prevent the transmission of HIV. For more information and/or to find a HIV Testing Center near you visit [HIV.test.org](http://HIV.test.org) or on your Cell phone text your Zip Code to Know It-566948. Join Army Public Health Nursing, the CDC and its many partners in supporting AIDS awareness.



# Viewpoint

INFORMATION, OPINIONS AND COMMENTARY

## World class conference covers Signal career picture

### Warrant officer outlook

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Correspondent*

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Barr was eager for this week's meeting with other warrant officers during the Signal Conference.

"It's a big deal," said Barr, Regimental chief warrant officer. "We'll have 80 warrant officers. That's one-tenth of active warrants in one room."

Barr said he often gets feedback from warrants, but usually, there are only a dozen or so together at one time.

"Any opportunity to get 80 warrants in one room the better," he said.

In addition to getting feedback from them, Barr hoped to educate them on what is happening at Fort Gordon and in the Signal Regiment.

"There are changes to the warrant officer corps they will hear about what is going on particularly with the scheduled update for WIs and the warrant officer advance course," he said.

Other concerns for warrant officers are the rapid changes in technology and how they

impact the network. The recent change concerning the use of USB drives is a case in point.

"Technology can overcome us. We're taking steps to overcome it," he said.

Barr said he hoped this inaugural Signal Conference would lead to future meetings with large groups of warrant officers.

"We're hoping we can build on that and have two days. It's a great start," he said.

### Sergeants major view training

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Correspondent*

Command sergeants major and sergeants major met earlier this week with the Signal Regiment's command sergeant major.

The purpose of the gathering was "to present an overview of the current and projected health of the Signal Regiment, and the actions currently being taken by the Office Chief of Signal, Directorate of Training and Human Resources Leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark, in an email.

Clark said he looked forward to not only meeting with his

leaders, but the entire Signal Conference.

"I am just flat out excited about the fact that we will have command teams worldwide visiting the Home of Signal," he said.

"This conference will be a "world class" two day work shop for CSMs in the signal corps. We will not be just sitting in a classroom but will spend the majority of our time showing them how we train our junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers and asking them for input on how we can improve. We will spend time with our WIN-T experts and also give them real time and relevant updates from our Office of the Chief of Signal," he said.

### Engineering outlook

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Correspondent*

Another vital part to this week's Signal Conference is a meeting of the architects of the system network.

Those in Functional Area-24, telecommunications systems engineering, met this week to learn more about their specialty and career goals they should set.

"The principal position a young 24 ought to aspire to is theater network operations security center director," said Col. Charles Dunn, Battle Lab director.

Achieving that goal has a lot of requirements.

"They should be fluent and very knowledgeable in concepts and theories in electronics and networking," he said.

"The work is very technical."

Tuesday's session brought the systems engineers together to discuss changes to the system and the future in regards to the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical and the Joint Tactical Radio System.

### Information Systems Management Officers outlook

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Correspondent*

Giving officers in the FA-53, field an idea of what their future might hold was a main focus of the break-out session held this week during the Signal Conference.

Col. Bob Hoelscher, commandant of the Leader College of Information Technology, planned to bring 40 students training in Functional Area 53,



Photo by Marlene Thompson

Information Systems Management Officer, to the session to prepare them for their future.

"It's a great way to prime the 53 pump," said Hoelscher.

Bringing the FA-53s together is important because the position has limited support opportunities.

"There is a single 53 in each brigade," he said. "Because of that, the officer doesn't have another 53 to task and share and compare experiences with."

Through the Tuesday event, officers were able to share experiences as well as giving new ones a change to see what their

career path might take and what opportunities for advancement are open to them.

Hoelscher anticipated talking with the officers about issues such as "What should I expect in jobs? Where can I go with my Family? Can I expect to be promoted to colonel or lieutenant colonel."

New captains could meet with higher ranking officers who could speak from their experiences, and say "Let me tell you what to expect."

Other issues included the role of the FA-53 and how it could change in the future.




*The Signal News pages were going to press as the 2008 Signal Conference got underway. Look for extended Signal Conference coverage in the Dec. 12 issue of the Signal.*



# Feedback...


Army/Navy game is to be aired on CBS noon Dec. 6.

## Who is your pick for the Army/Navy game?




It would be nice to beat Navy's butt once. I saw one of the games a few years ago. It was exciting! It would take a miracle, but we could beat Navy.

**Sgt. 1st Class Gerard Sylvan**  
**Company A, Warrior Transition Battalion**




I would like to see Army win once in a while. It would be nice to see Navy do more pushups than the Army. Every time either team scores the other team does push ups.

**Sgt. Raymond Wyrwas**  
**Company A, Warrior Transition Battalion**




It's time for the Army to win. [Navy has won consistently since 2002. Last year the win continued a Naval Academy record to consecutive wins against the other Service Academies with five winning years against both Army and Air Force.]

**Sgt. Patrick Ross**  
**Company A, Warrior Transition Bn.**




I'm a Soldier. I want Army to win. It was sports broadcaster Jim Rome who said, "Success is neither magical nor mysterious. It's the natural consequences of applying basic fundamentals."

**Staff Sgt. Wendell Thomas**  
**Company A, Warrior Transition Battalion**



If I was a betting man I would bet on Navy. The Army team is still required to meet height and weight standards. The Navy's fullback weighs about 300 pounds. I'm pulling for the Army!

**Staff Sgt. Aaron Blanton**  
**Company A, Warrior Transition Battalion**



I'm a Soldier. That will be my team playing against Navy. Even though we might lose, at the end of the game both teams will still respect one another.

**Sgt. 1st Class Belinda Eason**  
**Company A, Warrior Transition Battalion**

## Viewpoint

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# Post chapels undergoing needed improvements

**Bonnie Heater**  
*Signal staff*

The Good Shepherd Chapel recently received a much needed facelift. Weather and heavy use over the years has taken its toll on the more than 40 year old structure.

“We needed to update our chapels on post to meet the needs of our military Families today,” said Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Bendorf, the Catholic chaplain assigned to Good Shepherd.

“Chapels are the most



Photo by Bonnie Heater

**Signs posted on the entrance doors of Good Shepherd Chapel on Barnes Avenue indicates work is ongoing to make the the chapels ready for the upcoming holidays.**

highly used buildings on military installations, he added. “Between congregations and units there is a lot of traffic in the chapels at all times. Most of the chapels are open during the day. Some chapels are open Saturdays; all are open on Sundays. We hold worship services, funerals, baptisms, weddings and special services and programs such as the Living Last Supper during Easter.”

The Fort Gordon Religious Support Office was able to make the repairs largely due to a Chief of Chaplains Ecclesiastical grant of about \$160,000 according to Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Lyons of the post’s Religious Support Office. “This grant enabled us to perform a number of ecclesiastical upgrades and improvements to our chapel facilities,” he said.

The main contractor for the overall project was IAP World Services which works for the Directorate of Public Works on post. Fine Line Construction, a subcontractor, painted the steeple and installed vinyl coated aluminum on exterior wooden panels and trim of Good Shepherd Chapel. Work began Oct. 6.

According to Bendorf, several sections of the exterior trim of Good Shepherd Chapel were rotting and needed to be

replaced or covered. “The vinyl coated aluminum which was applied won’t rot and it will never need painting, he said.

Dumas Furniture of Alabama, also a subcontractor, removed 31 15-foot wooden pews and replaced them with upholstered pews with kneelers in the Good Shepherd Chapel, Lyons said. The cost for this project was roughly \$62,000.

Acoustical Design of Columbia, S.C., installed a new sound system in the chapel. “This project replaced a 20 year old system,” added Lyons.

All the chapels on post which included: Good Shepherd Chapel, Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel and Bicentennial Chapel on Brainerd Avenue received a state of the art remote-control screen and suspended projector. It was installed by JISK for about \$25,000. “Since the chapels are used for worship as well as training we are already reaping the benefits of this project,” Lyons said.

With the remaining funds, IAP World installed the Lexan Glass windows in the interior of Good Shepherd Chapel. This project enables worshipers to care for children while still in worship, he added. Lexan was chosen because it is stronger than Plexiglas. It won’t break.

New cabinets to store litur-

gical supplies are expected to be installed in Good Shepherd Chapel shortly.

In addition, Fine Line Construction installed a retractable, remote control blind for the skylight at Bicentennial Chapel. “This project enables us to darken the sanctuary for our Good Friday and Living Last Supper services, as well as for training,” Lyons explained. “This project was crucial. Last year Staff Sgt. James Gladden, a chaplain assistant, and I climbed to the top of the chapel and struggled to put a cover over the skylight in 40 mph winds for the Living Last Supper program. This project fulfilled a worship need and alleviated a safety hazard.

“We are satisfied with the work that has been done, said Lyons. “Everyone involved with the restoration project were very cooperative.”

While many upgrades have been added more work still remains to be accomplished in the chapels on post. Grant funding for additional ecclesiastical upgrades and improvements has been applied for by Lyons.

The Chief of Chaplains have ecclesiastical grants available for upgrading buildings, purchasing curtains, vestments and much more. They also have matching grants, according to Bendorf. “When I was sta-



Photo by Bonnie Heater

**A worker from Acoustical Design of Columbia, S.C. installs a new sound system in Good Shepherd Chapel on Barnes Avenue. Renovations were made possible by a Chief of Chaplains Ecclesiastical grant of about \$160,000.**

tioned in Deagu, Korea in 2003 -2004 the Chief of Chaplains gave us a grant for \$500,000 and we received a matching grant for another \$500,000 from garrison,” Bendorf said. “With the money we were able to build a multi-purpose activity building next to the chapel. In addition, the post chapel was gutted and all new pews and sound system were put in.”

Later in his career Bendorf again saw the use of matching funds applied at post chapels for restoration at other Army installation. “When I was stationed at Schofield Bar-

racks in Oahu, Hawaii, in 2005 the post received a grant from the Chief of Chaplains for about \$500,000 and this was matched with another \$500,000 from the garrison there,” Bendorf added. “The money was used to refurbish the pews and renovate the interior of the main post chapel there. The project cost almost a million dollars.

“It makes a lot of sense to give matching grants,” added Bendorf. “The installation gets \$1 million worth of work on the chapels for \$500, 000,” he added. “It’s a deal. It all goes back to the garrison.”



Courtesy photo

## Singing thanks

**On 25 November 2008, about 75 Soldiers from 551st Signal Battalion attended a Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by the Harlem United Methodist Church in support of Fort Gordon’s Community Outreach program. The entire group then rose to the occasion and sang the Signal Corps March, Army Song, and then ended with an exuberant Soldier’s Creed that had all present on their feet clapping, screaming and even shedding some tears.**



If you are interested in giving your time and efforts to any of the following volunteer opportunities in the Central Savannah River Area, contact Alia Naffouj at [alia.naffouj1@us.army.mil](mailto:alia.naffouj1@us.army.mil). Provide your name, rank, organization, work and home telephone numbers. If your class is interested in accepting the cause as a community relations project, provide the complete names and rank of each volunteer with a designated point of contact and contact information. For more information, call (706) 791-1871.

### NATIONAL VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT:

This Library of Congress project is aimed at collecting oral history interviews, memoirs, letters, diaries, photographs, and other original materials from veterans of World Wars I and II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001- present). Those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, United Service Organizations workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also encouraged to contribute their personal narratives. Currently, the Augusta Historical Society and its volunteers are interviewing World War II veterans in the Central Savannah River Area as part of this project. If you are a history buff and are interested in first-hand accounts of this war, you are needed to help interview these veterans. You will be given a 30 to 40-minute briefing that will teach you the skills you need to do the job. If that’s not your forte, volunteers are also needed to download

the interview tapes from the video camera to a DVD. For more information or to volunteer, contact Fred Gehle at (706) 738-8242 or Doug Hastings at (706) 832-6483.

### HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Odyssey Health Care is a hospice organization who is looking for volunteers to assist with administration duties (file and answer phones) and patient support volunteers (read, watch movies, write letters and provide companionship). Completion of basic Hospice training is required and provided.

### DECEMBER DASH

Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is in need of volunteers for their December Dash 10K 6:45 to 11 a.m. Dec. 6 at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. Volunteers will be registering runners, calling time, tallying finishing times and helping direct traffic on the race course.

## Chapel Call

### Collective Protestant Services

#### Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. – Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel  
9:30 a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service, Friendship Chapel  
10:30 a.m. – Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel  
Noon – Faith Gospel Service, Good Shepherd Chapel  
11:00 a.m. – Bicentennial Chapel  
11:00 a.m. – Friendship Chapel

#### Catholic Services

Daily, Mon – Fri, 11:45 a.m., EAMC Chapel  
Daily, Mon, Wed, Thurs. 11:30 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel  
Saturday, 3:30 p.m., Confessions, Good Shepherd Chapel  
Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel

#### Sunday Masses

8:30 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel  
10:00 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel  
11:45 a.m., EAMC Chapel

#### Jewish Activities

Holy Day, Sabbath and Daily  
Services available off post  
Jonathan Shoenholz, (706) 787-1353

#### Islamic Services

Jumah (Friday) Prayer Services, Islamic Activities Center, Building 38804 Academic Drive  
Oct-Apr, 12:45-1:30; and Apr-Oct, 1:15-1:45  
Retired CPO Marshall Abuwi - (706) 772-4303 (Leave message)

#### Denominational Services

LDS Service – Sunday 1:30-4:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel  
LDS Representative is Ralph Wright - (706) 364-6297  
Wiccan Service – Sunday 2 - 5 p.m. at Rel Support Ofc. (706) 868-8781

#### Religious Education

##### Children & Youth Classes

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Ed Ctr  
Sunday, 11:30 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and Sacramental Preparation, Religious Ed Ctr (Sep-May)  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Faith Gospel Classes, Religious Ed Ctr  
Youth Groups and Other RE Programs, Randy Dillard – (706) 791-4703

##### Adult Bible Studies

Sunday 9:30 a.m., Protestant Adult Studies, Religious Ed Ctr  
Sunday 11:30 a.m., Catholic “God and Coffee”, Family Life Ctr  
Sunday 11:30 a.m., RCIA at Rel Support Office, (706) 791-4703  
Tuesday Noon, EAMC Bible Study, Din Facility, 3rd floor  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Prot Women of the Chapel, Bicentennial  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Little Rock Study, Good Shepherd Chapel  
Thursday 9:30 a.m., Prot. Women of the Chapel, Bicentennial  
Wednesday 11:30 a.m., Post-wide Luncheon, Bicentennial  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Discipleship Training, Friendship Chapel  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Faith Gospel Svc at Rel. Ed. Ctr.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m., LDS FHE, Rel Support Ofc. (706) 364-6297  
Tuesday Noon., 513th at Motor Pool Conf. Rm.  
Tuesday 11:30 a.m., 116th MI GP Conf. Rm., Bldg 21719





Photo by Bonnie Heater

## Commissary renovations

Behind those tall, thick plastic sheets hanging up in the Fort Gordon Commissary, are signs of new upgrades to the facility. Work began Aug. 10 and is expected to be finished by Aug. 11, 2009, according to John Sidell, commissary manager. “We will be spending about \$5 million to upgrade this 27-year old building and the cost is all covered by the surcharge,” Sidell said. Some of the upgrades include: installing new energy efficient compressors for the air conditioning system and refrigeration; removing old floor tile, sanding and leveling the floor; installing new upright meat cases, widening the aisles, adding new shelves, and getting new cases in the produce section, deli and bakery.

# U-Do-It Store has self-help resources

Warren Hodge  
U-Do-It coordinator

Service members and Department of the Army civilians have a ready resource to help complete minor repair and maintenance. To save time, money and government labor a system is in place to provide supplies to service members and DA civilians free of charge to the requesting units.

U-Do-It training classes are conducted on the first Wednesday of each month in Building 40101 Brems Barracks beginning at 8 a.m. for unit and activity coordinators. Class reservations are not required, however, for large groups we ask you to please notify the U-Do-It.

### TROOP U-DO-IT ISSUE POLICY

All unit/activity personnel who plan to obtain materials or loan tools from the Troop U-Do-It store are reminded that only those personnel who have attended the Troop U-Do-It training class, listed on a current DA Form 1687 (Notice of Delegation of Authority-Receipt for Supplies) and a current FGSP 420-R (Certificate of Proficiency Card) will be issued materials or loaned tools. Units relocating to buildings other than those listed on their DA Form 1687, must submit a new signature card.

### U-DO-IT EXCESS MATERIALS

Self Help coordinators are encouraged to review their supply and storage areas to identify excess materials and the requirement for all items currently on hand. Due to various reasons requirements do change, such as the current barracks renovation project. Items such as HVAC filters, flush valve parts, diffusers, paint, lumber, and plywood that are serviceable and no longer needed should be returned to the U-Do-It warehouse. The U-Do-It Store is located in Building 40101, Brems Barracks area.

The hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.excluding Federal holidays. The telephone numbers for the U-Do-It Store is (706) 791-7683/3942.

# Winter home energy conservation tips can yield big savings

Dave Scott  
Energy Wizard

ATLANTA – Cutting home heating costs this winter will involve more than just turning down the thermostat.

According to the Energy Information Administration, an arm of the US Department of Energy, heating costs are expected to increase this winter between 10 to 30 percent.

Consumers can cut back by making sure that heat is not escaping through walls, the roof, windows or other areas of the house.

Following are a few suggestions to make sure the heat stays in the house to significantly reduce energy costs:

Roof replacement – If it’s time to replace a roof, homeowners may want to consider using fiberglass instead of the more traditional asphalt or tile. It can prevent up to 40 percent of heat loss and has a life of 50 years compared to 20 or 25 for asphalt.

Attic insulation – If a roof replacement isn’t due or is too pricey, attic insulation may be an economical alternative. It is estimated that most homes are under insulated and properly insulation and sealing a home can save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling bills.

Insulated exterior walls – An application of foam insulation to the exterior walls works best on older

frame houses. Holes are drilled in the walls, the foam insulation is sprayed in and then holes are sealed.

Weather stripping – The

Environmental Protection Agency says that the average home has leaks equivalent to leaving a window open all year. To help

prevent heated or cooled air from escaping, home owners should caulk, spray foam or weather strip around doors, windows,

and areas where telephone wires come into the home.

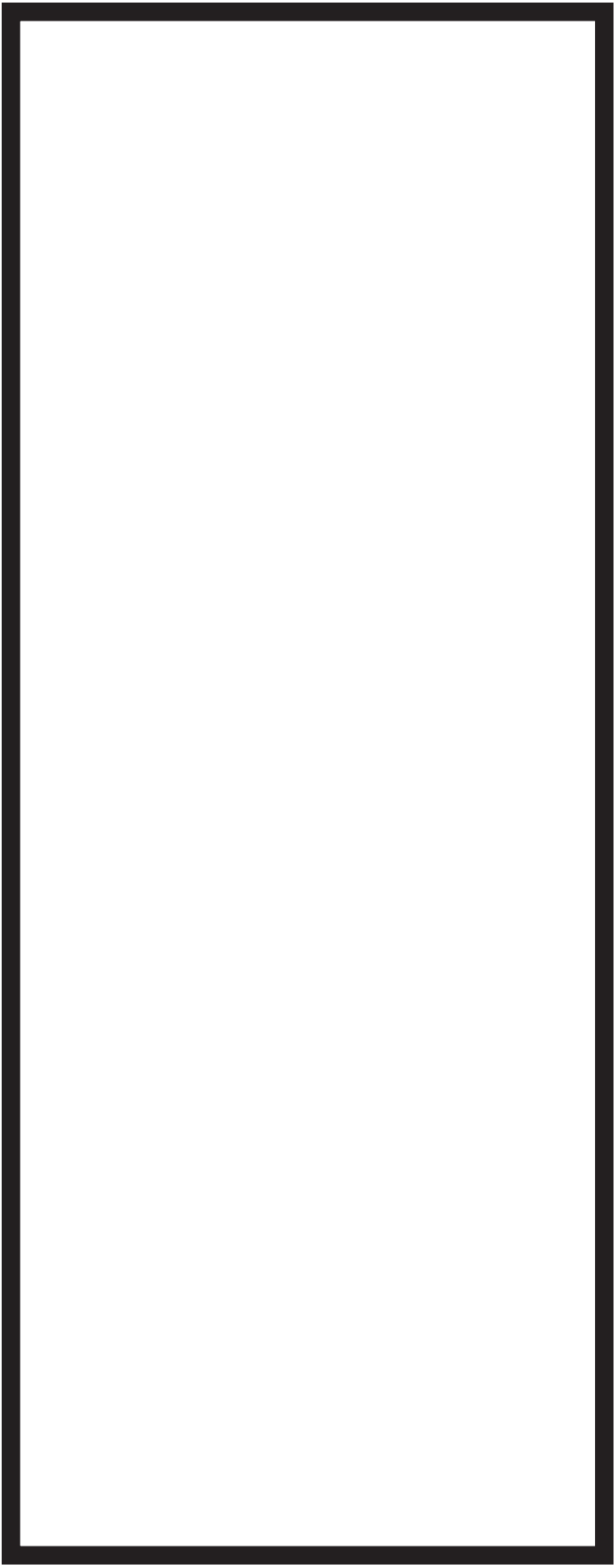
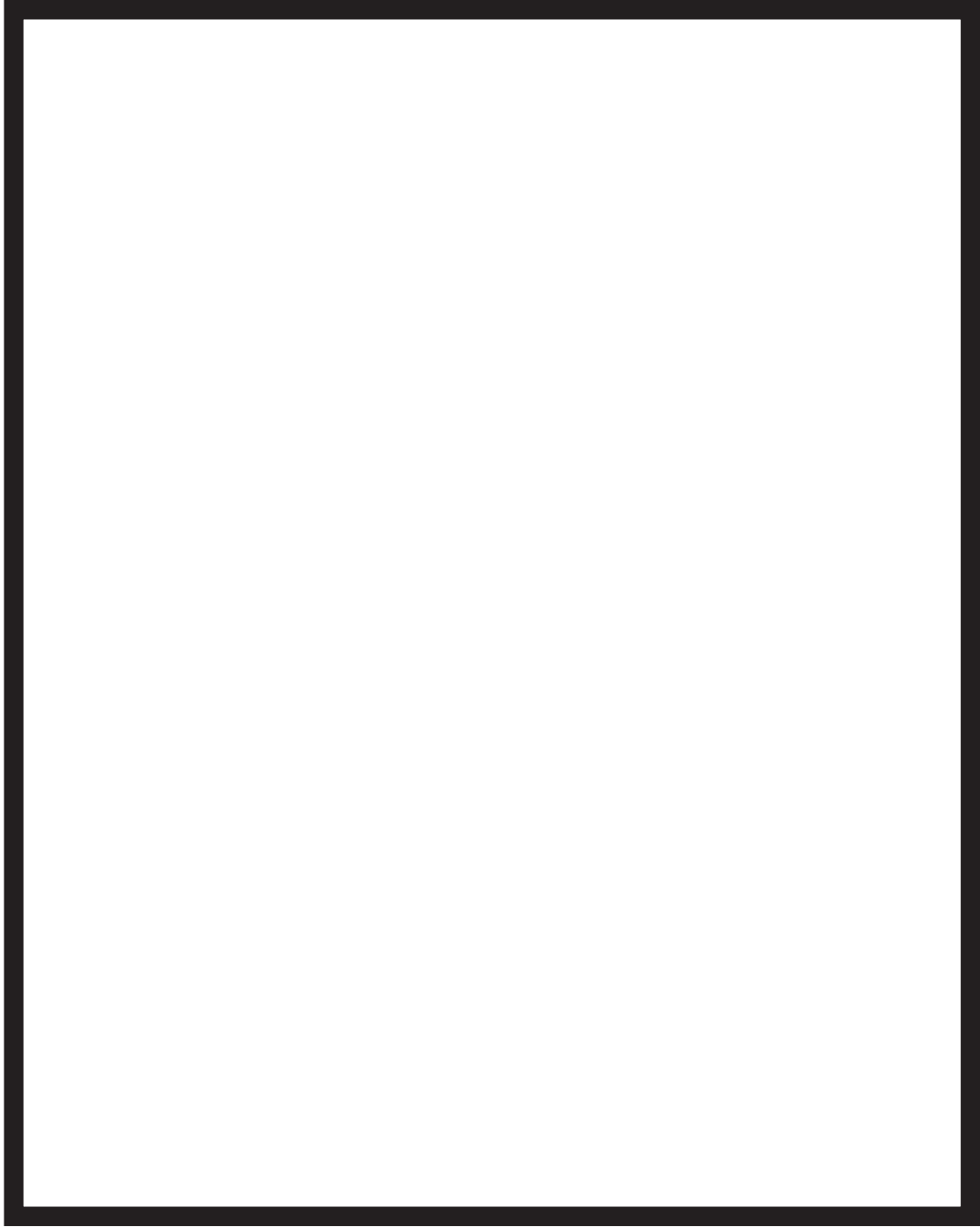
Seal duct joints – Heated air from forced air heating systems can escape through leaky joints in ductwork throughout a house. Home owners can seal exposed duct work in the basement and attic using a mastic duct sealer on duct work joints and seams. It works better than duct tape and is available at hardware and home improvement stores.

Thermostat – Lowering the thermostat a few degrees when going to bed or when nobody is home can still shave dollars off a heating bill. Even lowering it a few degrees before guests

arrive can help as a house full of people generates a lot of body heat. For every degree above 68 degrees, a heating unit requires three percent more energy. Even better, install a programmable thermostat that lowers the heat when it isn’t needed.

Consumers can access the Energy Wizard that covers a range of topics from conservation and new technologies to generators and tax incentives, among others.

Send your energy related questions to [EnergyWizard@EnergyWizardinfo](mailto:EnergyWizard@EnergyWizardinfo) or visit the website [www.EnergyWizard.info](http://www.EnergyWizard.info).



# 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show applications due

**Tim Hipps**  
*FMWRC Public Affairs*

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** – December 31 is the deadline to apply for an audition to join the cast and crew of the 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Army Entertainment Division needs vocalists, dancers, musicians, technicians and specialty acts for the song-and-dance extravaganza that provides “entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier.”

Vocalists must submit a DVD or video cassette that exhibits musical styles, vocal range and special talents emphasizing musical variety. A suggested format features a spoken introduction, a minimum of two songs of contrasting styles, and a segment devoted to additional talents, such as dance or instrumental ability. Musicians must also submit an audio CD.

Dancers must submit a DVD or video cassette that exhibits different styles of dance. A spoken introduction, followed by at least two performance numbers illustrating various techniques, is required. Both solo and partner-accompanied dances are acceptable. Be sure to include additional talents, particularly vocals.

Vocalists who play musical instruments are ideal candidates for the Soldier Show, which will consider instrumentalists who can sing. Such candidates are not required to have musician as their military occupational specialty, but they should be proficient in reading basic lead sheets or chord charts.

Musicians’ audition videos must include a recording of a solo performance, which can be supplemented by a record-

ing with an ensemble or band.

Singing ability is desired but not required, and additional talents will be evaluated in conjunction with proficiency on the primary instrument, including singing, playing of multiple instruments and dancing – which should be revealed in the video.

The Army Entertainment Division’s panel of judges will select Soldier-musicians for live auditions based on the videos and application packets.

Technicians are needed for audio, video, lighting, costuming and stage technology. Performers and technicians with experience in theatre leadership, team building, and mechanical or electrical aptitude also will be considered for positions such as stage manager. They must be available from February 1 through November 30.

Technicians must submit a resume that illustrates experience in sound, lighting, construction, carpentry or stage management. Photographs of past work are encouraged. Performers should also list their

technical experience, if applicable.

Drivers also are needed to help keep the U.S. Army Soldier Show on the road. Freightliner trucks and a commercial bus are used to transport the cast, crew and equipment around the country. Active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers with a valid Class A driver’s license are preferred, but applicants with any valid driver’s license are eligible for training.

All personnel interested in submitting an audition packet and tape to the Soldier Show should contact Steve Walpert, **steven.walpert@us.army.mil**, Fort Gordon installation entertainment director, for assistance not later than Dec. 10.

Additional documents are required for application.

For detailed requirements and information visit **http://www.fortgordon.com/soldiershow.htm** and download the official memorandum. Submissions must be received by Army Entertainment not later than Dec. 31.

## U.S. Army Soldier Show Audition Essentials

A complete application packet for an audition as a performer in the 2009 U.S. Army Soldier Show must include:

- A copy of enlisted records brief or officer records brief
- A copy of most recent noncommissioned officer evaluation
- A copy of the most recent Army Physical Fitness Training, including height and weight
- Most recent Department of Army photo
- Resume of relevant experience
- Audition video
- Commander's letter of intent to release from March 1 through November 30



# Signal Corps NCOs welcome WWII veterans

**Sgt. 1st Class Merriion LaSonde**  
*Army News Service*

**WASHINGTON** – The lives of more than 400,000 service members who fought in World War II battles at Midway, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Battle of the Bulge, to name a few, have been commemorated at the National WWII Memorial.

Helping more than 35 surviving veterans of the war visit the National WWII memorial for the first time were the volunteers from Honor Flight program and nine Soldiers from the Signal Corps Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy Detachment at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

“I didn’t think I would ever get to see it in person, but I am here. It’s beautiful,” said Leroy Spotanski, a war veteran from Sessar, Ill. “I (joined the Army) went in at 18, at 19 I was in Europe - St. Lou (the battle of St. Louis) is where we saw combat for the first time. Spotanski, who was with the 71st Infantry Division, said he spent eight months serving in Germany.

Delmar Jones, also from Sessar, had a different perspective on the war. He served in the South Pacific as a member of the 81st Infantry Division.

“We went to Japan as the occupation force,” Jones added. “We got there in early November and left on January 13, 1946... I am very emotional about (the WWII memorial). It brings back a lot of memories.”

Terri Koonce, a Guardian with the Franklin County Honor Flight and a team leader for the trip, said Honor Flight is a program where they take veterans to see the memorial that has been built in their honor.

“The trip is completely free to the veteran. Many of these gentlemen are going blind, deaf, or are terminally ill and this may be their last chance to see it,” she said. “The number of flights per year is totally dependent on the donations that have come in. We might do one a month or a few per month. This particular flight we had an unexpected donation that permitted us to fund a flight before the end of the year.

“When we call the veterans to let them know they have a seat on the flight they are so excited,” Koonce continued. “For many of them it is a deci-

sion whether to buy groceries, pay for medications or go to D.C. and you know what decision usually wins out. Most of these people would never have been able to make this trip on their own.”

The program started in Ohio with new chapters opening up all the time across the United States. Volunteers of the program are titled Guardians and act as escorts to the veterans.

“We have 19 Guardians participating in this flight all from the St. Louis (Missouri) area,” Koonce said.

Guardians from the Baltimore chapter along with the Soldiers from Fort Meade greeted the St. Louis flight veterans. Koonce said this helped create the once-in-a-lifetime atmosphere and experience for the veterans – even airport passengers and staff waved flags in appreciation and support.

“When they see all those people there clapping and cheering — they are all so surprised. Some were even crying,” Koonce said. “It was just beautiful.”

At the end of the day when all the veterans were on their return flight home, it was time for “Mail Call.”

“Through relatives of the veterans, we get letters from their Family members and cards from school children,” Koonce explained about the importance of “Mail Call.” “We call out names and deliver these letters for them to read on the flight home. They are often so surprised to find out how much their service meant to their Family members, and how proud their relatives are of them — there is usually not a dry eye. They just love it.”

Jennifer Jackson, a Guardian with the Franklin County Honor Flight and St. Louis resident, is a recent student of WWII history and believes that the memorial was long overdue.

“I think it’s a blessing that we can bring these people to the memorial,” she said. “A lot of people don’t realize what all these veterans went through. Meeting these men really put a face and name to the war for me... helped me realize how much was actually sacrificed for us to have the nation and the freedom that we have today.”

Editor’s note: Anyone interested in learning more about Honor Flight visit their website at [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org)



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Merriion LaSonde

Honor Flight volunteers and nine Soldiers from the Signal Corps Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy Detachment at Fort George G. Meade, Md. welcomed more than 35 World War II veterans at the Baltimore Washington International Airport Nov. 22. The veterans were in Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial where former Senator and World War II veteran Bob Dole greeted fellow veterans at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. The veterans visited the Memorial for the first time courtesy of the Honor Flight program.

## Signal Center training surveys

All Signal Corps leaders are urged to help promote success of the Signal Center quality assurance office AUTOGEN Survey program through which Soldiers have a direct impact on training school curricula.

The goal is to distribute the surveys to selected course graduates and their supervisors within 6-12 months after completing an Active or Reserve Component Signal School course. The surveys are anonymous and voluntary, and will be sent to the Soldier’s AKO addresses. Leaders are asked to periodically remind Soldiers about the important role they play in providing information that is critical for mission success, and relevant to the needs of the Army.

For more information about the AUTOGEN Survey call (706) 791-2688 or (706) 791-2868.



# Sports

## Sports UPDATE

### Child Youth and School Services

Parents interested in registering their children for the Child Youth and School Services Winter Basketball and Cheerleading Program can do so through **today** at the CYS enrollment office, Building 28320, on Lane Avenue. Children age 5 -14 of CYC patrons which include: dependents of active military, retired military, Department of Defense civilians and contractors are eligible to register. Bring a current sports physical for your child at the time of registration.

Games begin January 2009. Activity fee for basketball is \$45 and \$35 for cheerleading.

For more information call Brad McConnell at (706) 791-5104 or e-mail him at [brad.kmcconnell@us.army.mil](mailto:brad.kmcconnell@us.army.mil).

### Gordon Lanes

Located on 3rd Avenue in Building 33200, Gordon Lanes offers open bowling 9 a.m. each day. Enjoy the \$1 Mondays. Gordon Lanes is available for birthday parties. A full service bar is available Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information call (706) 791-3446.

### Hilltop Riding Stable

Fort Gordon's Hilltop Riding Stable offers a wide range of activities for Families who enjoy riding. Guided trail rides are available for ages seven and up on a first come, first serve basis. Saturday and Sunday departure times are 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Lake side trail rides are held each Sunday with a departure time of 2 p.m. Arrive at the stable on N. Range Road, Building 509, 30 minutes before ride times. Closed toe shoes are required for all riding activities.

For information call (706) 791-4864.



### AUSA, AFCEA, SCRA sponsor Signal Conference golf tournament

A golf tournament will be held beginning 10 a.m. **today** with a shotgun start. Check in times are set from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Boxed lunch is included in the basic tournament fee.

The cost is \$30 for Gordon Lakes Golf Course members and \$40 for non-members.

The format is an 18 hole, 4 person Lauderdale.

Local players call Daniela Hudson at (706) 791-6429 for more information.

## C-73rd Ordnance Battalion wins flag title

Neil Smith

Sports coordinator

During the 6 p.m. flag football championship game Company B, 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion met the Cougars and won the game 13-7, Nov. 18.

They played them again at 7 p.m. for the championship and lost. The Cougars fueled with energy and enthusiasm generated from the entire Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, which showed up for the play-off game, won the championship 24-12.

The Cougars picked up the first place trophy and medallions for each player. Company B, 202 MI Bn. received the second place trophy and medallions for their players.

Tyrone Stewart, receiver for the Cougars, was named most valuable player. Also showing up to cheer the Cougars to victory were Mark Horoho, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade commander; Ronald Pflieger, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade command sergeant major; Sean McKenney, 73rd Ordnance Battalion commander, Roland Pechie, 73rd Ordnance Battalion command sergeant major; and Michael Lind, 73rd Ordnance Battalion commander.



Photo by Bonnie Heater

**Terrace Hill, quarterback and coach for Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, known as the Cougars, (player with the ball) scrambles to gain some yardage for his team during the 2008 Flag Football Championship play-off game held Nov. 18 at the main football field on the 1/4 mile track.**



Photo by Bonnie Heater

### Lynx donate jersey

**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, and Jan Hodges Burch, one of the owners of the Augusta Lynx Hockey team unveiled a framed autographed team jersey Nov. 13 in the lobby of Darling Hall. According to Burch, the gift was given to show the team's appreciation for the support Fort Gordon has given the team and to express thanks for Fort Gordon service members' service to the country. The shirt will be permanently displayed inside the Kegler's Lounge at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center, said the general.**

## Military recreation managers training developed

Rob McIlvaine

FMWRC Public Affairs

"Inclusive Recreation for Wounded Warriors," a first-of-its-kind training program for military recreation managers, will begin this January at Penn State's University Park campus.

"The program will provide the knowledge, tools and resources recreation managers need to integrate active-duty wounded warriors into their existing recreation programs," said Ruth Ann Jackson, executive director of Penn State Hospitality Leadership Institute, and co-principal investigator of the project.

"This is huge, ground-breaking stuff," said Kortney Clemons, a former Army medic injured by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) while carrying a fellow Soldier to safety in Baghdad in February 2005.

Clemons, a 2008 graduate of Penn State with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation and a minor in Family Studies, currently is in management training with the Paralympic Division of the U.S. Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Thanks to the training I received, I'm able to help other Wounded Warriors as they are discharged from military hospitals out into the real world. Inclusive training for recreation managers is crucial in helping Soldiers make that transition."

After losing his leg, Clemons spent nearly 10 months in rehabilitation at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, but never felt out of place because of all the other injured Soldiers at the hospital.

"When I attended classes at Penn State, though, it was a big adjustment getting around with so many young adults who were not injured and didn't understand," Clemons said. "Inclusion recreation became a big issue and helped me get on with life."

Injured military personnel returning from Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001 now number more than 65,000. During pre-

vious wars, these men and women might have been discharged or retired. This is no longer true. Current military policies permit wounded warriors to remain on active duty.

"The need for providing inclusive recreation services for active duty wounded warriors is more important now than ever before," said Tammy Buckley, instructor and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at Penn State University, and co-principal investigator.

Prior to joining Penn State, Buckley worked in the areas of stroke, amputation and spinal cord injury and was instrumental in developing spinal cord injury protocols for therapeutic recreation service delivery in medical rehabilitation as clinical supervisor at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, DC.

In her role as Project Manager on Penn State Training Projects for the MWR Academy [www.mwraonline.com/aboutus.asp](http://www.mwraonline.com/aboutus.asp), Buckley and her husband, Penn State Instructor Ralph Smith, now retired, collaborated with the School of Hospitality Management and Outreach's Management Development Programs and Services to develop a customized four-day prototype course that was presented to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs in the fall of 2007.

"Inclusive Training for Wounded Warriors" was greeted with enthusiastic welcome.

Mike DeRose, a recreation specialist at Fort McPherson, Ga., attended the prototype course. He noted how recreation staff at most garrisons are seeing wounded warriors return from the Army's areas of operations, and the need to be prepared to provide recreation support to these Soldiers.

"Most recreation specialists don't have a background in therapeutic recreation, so this training will teach us how to include all of our returning Soldiers in our programs."

Aaron Goodman, director of outdoor recreation at Fort Campbell, Ky., stressed how wounded warrior recreation should not only be provided by the military, but also by municipal programs and businesses that offer recreation programs and services in the community. "We all have a shared interest in wounded warrior recreation since injured or retired service members not only live on base, but also out in the community. Also, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, once home, may not be near a military base, so it's imperative that their community recreation branch be prepared to offer adaptive options for inclusive recreation and specifically gear programs for them."

Recreation programs improve the state of mind, health and general well-being of wounded warriors, he said.

"These programs allow individuals to have an outlet to share their experiences and emotions in a positive environment. Families have the opportunity to share in an experience together, some for the first time. This creates a great opportunity for the Family to reconnect."

The overall purpose of the course is to train MWR staff on methods for integrating wounded active duty military personnel in existing MWR programs and services through appropriate adaptations and modifications.

"For example," said Buckley, "military personnel with amputations may require different prosthetic feet to rock climb, stabilization straps to lift weights, or flotation aids to swim. Those with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who experience adverse reactions to crowds and loud noises may need recreation activities structured in quieter settings."

The course, aimed at recreation personnel across all branches of service, will increase understanding of the characteristics and contraindications of various

physical and psychological conditions resulting from war. These conditions include PTSD, amputation, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

"Additionally, course participants will learn how to modify activities, how to create accessible programs, and learn about recreation-related adaptive and specially designed equipment that may facilitate full engagement in MWR programs and services," Buckley said.

Penn State University is no stranger to adapting recreational programs.

"It might not seem feasible for Penn State's hilly campus, just beginning to get cold and windy, to have so many programs for people with disabilities, but as part of the prototype course, we took all the participants over to Ability Athletics to meet a coach who has trained some of the finest athletes with disabilities in the country," Buckley said.

Teri Jordan, Disability Recreation Programs Coordinator at Penn State Ability Athletics, has been taking students with disabilities through the paces in wheelchair basketball, swimming programs, and weightlifting for people who use wheelchairs and those with other varying disabilities.

"We call it Ability Athletics because we don't want to focus on what you don't have, we want to focus on what you do have," Jordan said.

The move from coaching college track to Paralympic athletics has given Jordan the opportunity to utilize her biomechanics and adaptive physical education degree from the University of Kansas.

A world record holder in the 10-mile run and a national record holder at 5,000 meters before coaching women's World Championship athletics teams in 1995 and 1999, Teri has trained some of the finest athletes with disabilities in the country.

"I got distracted for 23 years coaching college track," Jordan said, "but that led me to be a better coach for these athletes."

Her experience and accomplishments reflect the caliber of program she has started at Penn State and the dedication she has toward enhancing the program in the future.

But "Inclusive Recreation for Wounded Warriors" is not just about physical disabilities.

Being able to recognize who is experiencing stigma or stereotyping which can be associated with physical or mental disabilities, and including them, their friends and Family in the healthy pursuit of recreation, is another aspect of the training.

Ralph Smith knows something about the stigma of war-related injury.

A Professor Emeritus and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Dr. Smith specializes in the areas of inclusive programming for individuals with disabilities, attitudes toward disability, and disability adjustment.

"This prototype and initial training is just scratching the surface of what needs to be done and how far we need to go," Smith said.

Medically retired from the U.S. Army because of combat wounds incurred while serving with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, Smith has an even longer experience of helping those with disabilities.

"My interest preceded my injury," explained Smith. "I enjoyed working with children with disabilities at summer camp while I attended college and decided to sign up for a Master's program at the University of Illinois when the Army drafted me."

These four-day (32-hour) classes are designed to train assistant managers, managers, recreation division chiefs, and other support personnel in the MWR Recreation arena.

Students also develop an "Inclusion Action Plan" to implement upon return to their installations.

For more information, visit [www.hhdev.psu.edu/rptm/](http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/rptm/), [www.hhdev.psu.edu/shm/research/hli.html](http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/shm/research/hli.html), and [www.outreach.psy.edu/programs/mdev/](http://www.outreach.psy.edu/programs/mdev/) online.



# Spectrum

## 35th Signal Brigade kicks off Christmas holiday season

**Bonnie Heater**  
*Signal staff*

The 35th Signal Brigade began this holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony and concert held 5:30 p.m. Dec. 1 in front of the brigade's headquarters on Brainard Avenue.

The U.S. Signal Corps Band Brass Quintet played assorted lively holiday songs throughout the concert.

Sgt. Liza Shino served as the master of ceremony. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jon Hollenbeck, brigade chaplain, gave the invocation.

Col. John Baker, 35th Signal Brigade commander, spoke briefly. He mentioned how grateful everyone was to have

members of the 63rd Signal Battalion safely back home.

"I asked that everyone keep our members of Company B, 67th Signal Battalion in your thoughts and prayers this season since they are still in Iraq," Baker said. He then wished everyone a wonderful holiday.

The children in the audience joined the commander in lighting the exterior Christmas tree.

The Leyland Cypress was donated by Charlie Ashe, owner of the Bellevue Christmas Tree Farm in Edgefield, S.C.

This is the second time the Ashe Family has donated a tree for the brigade's holiday program.

According to Sue Brewer-

Rollins of the 35th Signal Brigade, the Ashe Family donated the tree in support of the troops and said they hope when their son Corie, a high school senior this year, graduates and joins the U.S. Marine Corps that someone will help him celebrate Christmas with a tree wherever he is stationed.

Following the lighting of the holiday tree members of the brigade, their families and the U.S. Signal Corps Band Brass Quintet welcomed Santa Claus with the song, "Here comes Santa Claus."

The jolly old fellow passed out candy and visited with the children.

Refreshments were served following the ceremony.



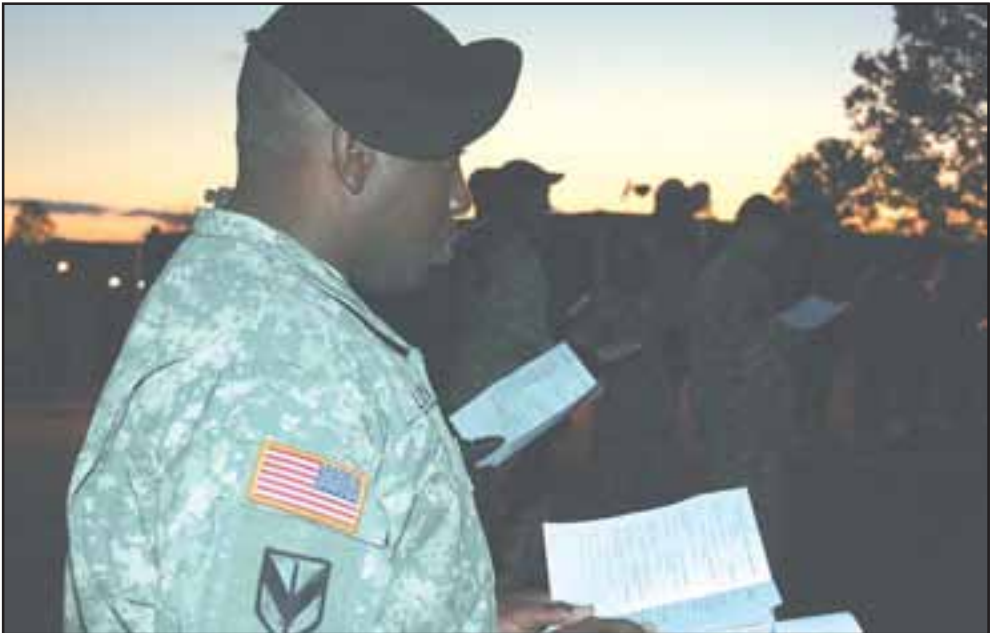
Photos by Bonnie Heater

**In preparation for the 35th Signal Brigade tree lighting ceremony held Dec. 1, Pvt. Francis Pilato hands Spc. Roy West a big, red bow to trim the exterior holiday tree in front of the brigade headquarters on Brainard Avenue.**



Photos by Bonnie Heater

(Above) Santa Claus also known as Capt. Stephen Joosten, 35th Signal Brigade public affairs officer, greets the children with candy canes during the brigade tree lighting activities. (Right) Jamilah White gives Santa a happy high five. Jamilah is the 3-year old daughter of Bernadette and Sgt. Maj. Oree White. (Left) The U.S. Army Signal Corps Band Brass Quintet opened up the 35th Signal Brigade Tree Lighting Ceremony and Concert with the song "O Christmas Tree." Later, they welcomed Santa Claus with the song "Here comes Santa Claus."



(Above) Sgt. Michael Loving joins in singing "Joy to the World" during the brigade's holiday concert Dec. 1 on post. (Right) Col. John Baker, 35th Signal Brigade commander, [seated at the end of the first row] with his wife Laurie and their daughter MacKenzie, enjoy the unit's tree lighting ceremony and concert.

